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Start Time: ~~11:00~~  
11:00

End Time: 12:50

## ANSWER SHEET

### (SECTIONAL TEST I- ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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**Comments after evaluation**

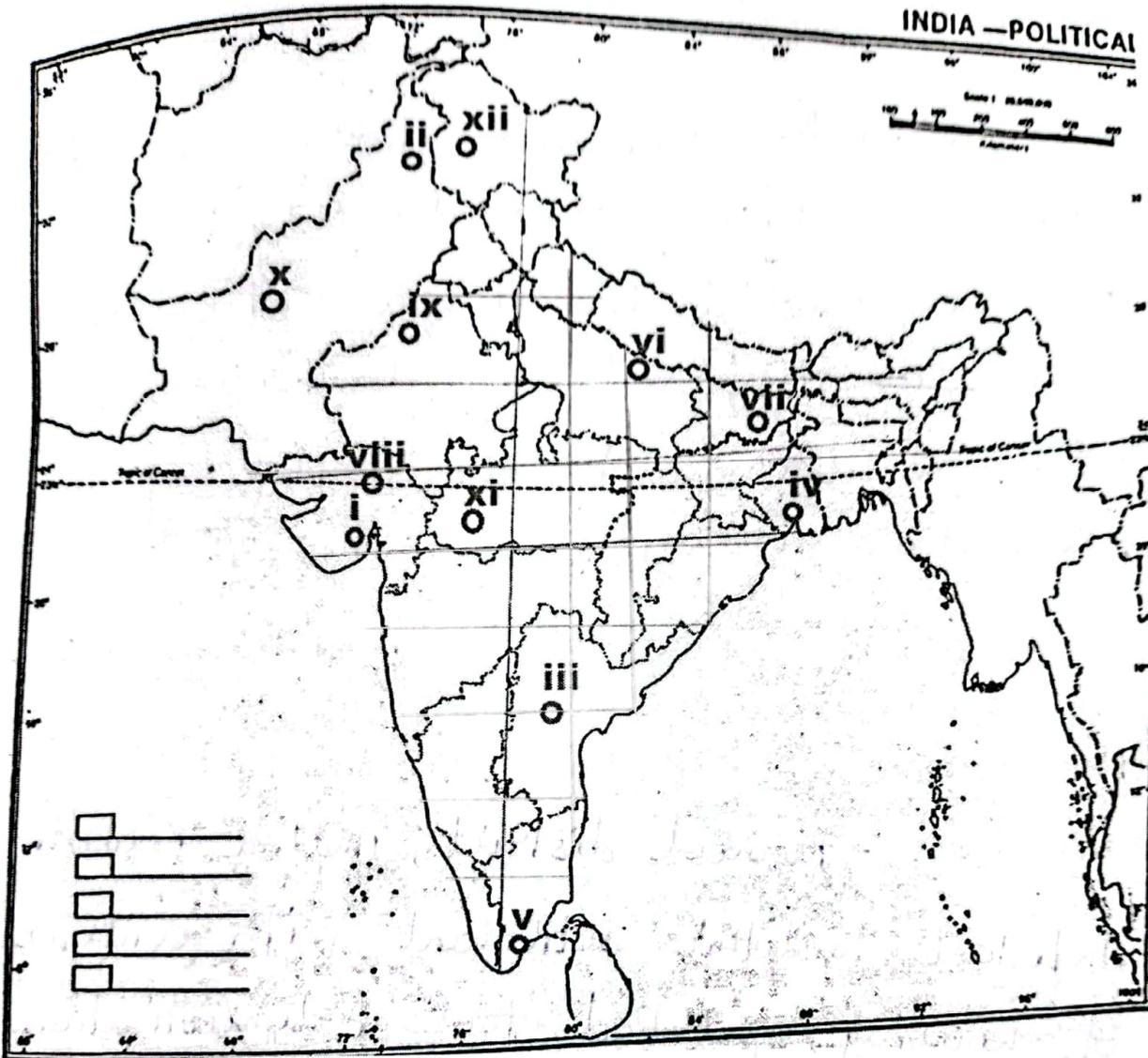
**Marks:**

**Comments for improvement:**

1.1  
1(a)

Q.1 Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. [12x2.5= 30 Marks]

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(i) Ancient political and educational centre

Vallabhi

- Important site of Jainism.
- Here, 12 Angas of Jainism were compiled in 2nd council conducted by king.

(ii) Ancient commercial and cultural centre

Taxilla

- It hosted the University where men like Kautilya, Panini studied.
- It was visited by Chinese travellers such as Hsien Tsang, Fa Hien.
- Some sources question the quality of education of Taxilla.

(iii) Neolithic and Megalithic site

Kurnool - Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.

- Important neolithic settlement with evidences of housing, polished tools, domestication.
- Megalithic burials found in later period.
- Characterised with use of iron.

(iv) Chalcolithic and NBPW site

### Chandaketugash

- Important site of West Bengal with finds of terracotta factory.
- This site shows active occupation with evidences of use of copper, polished tools, etc.
- Archaeological finds include yaksha, yakshis, coins, etc.

(v) Ancient capital and port city

### Korkai

- Famous historical port city of Kerala.
- Had connections with West Asian sea routes going up to Persian Gulf and Red Sea.
- Centre for trade in spices, textiles, horses, etc.

(vi) Ancient capital and pre-historic site

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## (vii) Palaeolithic site

Paisra - Munger district, Bihar.

- It was a stone working site.
- Unfinished stone fragments recovered.
- There are evidences for settlement.
- It also shows thin layer of habitation of Mesolithic period.
- Stones tools made of quartz recovered.

## (viii) Mesolithic site

Lahnganj - Mehsara district, Gujarat.

- Presence of mesoliths.
- It shows earliest evidences of pottery, as seen from potsherds.
- It was also an Harappan site. It had symbiotic relation with

Harappan civilisation, trading in agrarian products.

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(ix) Pre-Harappan and Harappan site

### Kalibangan

- Important early Harappan and Harappan site.
- Evidences of agriculture are found including a plough marked field, terracotta plough, rice field.
- Five altars of Kalibangan depicts religious diversity of Harappans.
- Named after black bangles recovered from the site.
- It had a citadel, lower town, wheel made pottery, grid pattern of streets.

(x) Site with evidence of early farming

### Mehrgarh - Baluchistan, Pakistan

- Earliest evidence of farming found from here.
- It also shows diverse subsistence practices → fishing, hunting, cotton farming, etc.
- Evidences of dental surgeries also found.

- SECTIONAL TEST - ANSWER
- Crops such as wheat and barley were grown primarily.
  - Animal domestication was an important feature.

(xi) Chalcolithic site

Navdatoli - West Nirmar, Madhya Pradesh

- On banks of Narmada, small site of Navdatoli display multiple layers of inhabitation by Chalcolithic people.
- Houses of mud and reed.
- Evidence of use of copper.
- Reliance on agriculture and animal domestication.

(xii) Megalithic and Neolithic site

Burzahom - Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

- Shows features of Northern megalithic and neolithic culture.
- Pit dwellings existed where fire hearths, storage pits, etc. were built.
- People mainly relied on hunting.
- Weapons of stones such as axes were found.
- ~~• Agrarian evidences include~~
- Burial of dog and human found.

2 (a)

"While using the accounts of foreign writers, historians must distinguish between statements based on hearsay and those grounded in perceptive observations." Elaborate with examples. [15 Marks]

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Foreign accounts such as Greco-Roman texts by Megasthenes, Pliny, Plutarch; Chinese texts by Hsien Tsang, Fa Hien and Arabic texts by Al-Biruni, Sulaiman through significant light on Indian history.

Foreign Writers - making statements on hearsay

Historians must be cautious in reading foreign texts because of :-

↳ Exaggerated claims

(Ex) Megasthenes stated that there was no slavery in India.

Chinese writers claimed India to be fully safe for traders, that is, no robbery.

↳ Lack of understanding

Due to linguistic differences and cultural differences, foreign writers wrongly assumed some statements.

(Ex) → a) Megasthenes described Indian society in terms of class, not caste.

b) Al-Bizuni mainly depended on Brahmins for knowledge and gave biased description of Indian society.

### ↳ Fanatic's claims

(Ex) Megasthenes talk about gold eating ants, people with legs turned around, etc.

### ↳ Underlying motive

Foreign writers prioritised only those views which suited their motives.

(Ex) → a) Megasthenes argued that India was unconquerable due to its terrain (to justify Greek defeat)

b) Fa Hien focused only on religious aspect, ignoring political history.

c) Huen Tsang glorified Harshvardhan.

## Statement grounded in perspective observation

↳ Megasthenes gave detailed description of Mauryan army, which could be verified from other sources too.

↳ Chinese writers informed about contemporary trade routes (Uttarpatha - Dakshinpatha), educational centers (Nalanda, Taxilla), etc.

↳ Arab writers noticed Indian educational development, political system, etc.

↳ The event of Alexander's invasion in India is known only from Greek and Roman sources.

Foreign accounts are valuable sources for looking at history from outside perspective. However, these must be read critically to separate fact from fiction.

Q.2 (b)

Give an account of the rise of Mahayana and its significance. [15 Marks]

Mahayana Buddhism was an offshoot of Buddhism which preached worship of Buddha in the form of idol and gave the concept of Boddhisattvas.

### Rise of Mahayana

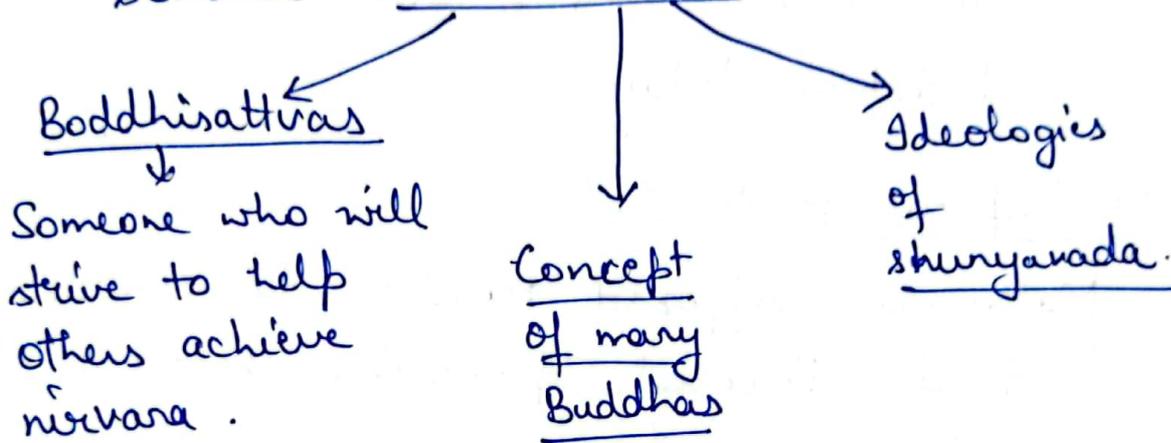
↳ It emerged in the backdrop of 4th Buddhist council under Kanishka, the Kushana ruler in

↳ Scholars like Nagarjuna, Vasudeva, Ashvagosh, etc. codified the ideals and principles of Mahayana.

↳ Differentiated from its counterpart - Hinayana (smaller wheel), Mahayana (larger wheel) adopted elements of popular religious beliefs such as idolisation, correlating Buddha with Hindu avatar of Vishnu, etc.

↳ Contemporary developments including deepening trade relations affected Buddhist Sangha and made Buddhism more open to change.

↳ Mahayana Buddhism hence showed several characteristics.



## Significance of Mahayana

### ① Cultural proliferation

Mahayana significantly contributed in the growth of  Gandhara school of art and architectural marvel of Bamiyan Buddha, along with literary growths.

### ② Decreasing differences with Hinduism

Both religions came to increasing identify with each other.

### ③ Increased popularity of Buddhism

Mahayan B spread across to South-East Asia, China, Korea and Japan.

↳ It is the most practiced sect of Buddhism today.

### ④ Impetus to trade

Mahayana supported monks who contributed in trade through providing shelter to travellers.

(Ex) Evidences of distillation in Gujarat monastries.

### ⑤ Intellectual development

Philosophies like shunyavada (nothingness) were added to Buddhism.

Mahayana continue to promote Buddhist ideals based on achieving nirvana and helping fellows to achieve their nirvana, before one's own mahaparinibbana.

Throw light on the art and architecture of the Indus Valley Civilization. [20 Marks]

2 (c)

Indus Valley Civilisation stands as an evidence of remarkable artistic developments of proto historic phase. Archaeological evidences of building remains, house plans, seals, beads, terracotta figures, etc display their achievements.

### Indus Valley Civilisation Art

#### ① Sculptural art

a) Mohenjodaro hosts various Harappan sculptures prominently 'Priest-king' and 'Dancing girl'.

b) Terracotta figurines identified with 'mother-goddess' wearing elaborate head-dress are also found.

c) These sculptures signify cultural development, religious symbols and claims of for political authority.

## ② Seals

- ↳ large number of steatite seals are found across the civilisation.
- ↳ Various symbols such as bull, unicorn, trees, tigers, etc. could be found.
- ↳ 'Pashupati-seal' displaying a yogic person surrounded by animals has been identified as proto-Shiva.

## ③ Pottery

- ↳ Variety in terms of perforated jars, knobbed wares, storage jars, faience pottery, etc.
- ↳ It shows class divisions in terms of simple and luxury pottery.

## ④ Beads and Jewellery

- ↳ Chanhudaro and Nageshwar have evidences of bead making factories.
- ↳ Use of steatite, cornelian, lapis lazuli, jasper, etc.
- ↳ Patterns such as trefoil were used.

## Indus Valley Civilisation Architecture

Significant development seen in :-

### a) Settlement patterns

Sites usually had raised citadel and a lower town. Variations existed for boundary walls.

Ex :- In Mohenjodaro only citadel was enclosed by wall.

In Harappan -> no walls.

### b) Great structures

Mohenjodaro :- Great Bath (set of stairs, watertight floor); College of priest; granaries.

Lothal :- Dog Dockyard; three divisions of settlement.

### c) Planning of Houses

↳ Rooms were built around courtyard.

↳ Double storied houses built.

↳ Special attention to privacy by making no windows towards roads and sharp turn of path at entrance.

↳ Uniform bricks used -  $7 \times 14 \times 28$ .

#### d) Drainage System

Perhaps the most distinguished feature.

↳ All houses were connected by drains.

↳ There were bathrooms with pits for excretion

↳ Street drains remained covered and had openings for periodic clearing.

#### e) Street patterns

Across the civilisation, grid pattern was followed with sharply turning streets at  $90^\circ$ .

Though some historians downplay Harappan achievements by comparing them to Mesopotamia, stating that structures were less extravagant and durable.

However, Indus Valley Civilisation displayed intelligent use of space and resources to form structures of daily use as well as symbolic aspects.

2.4 (a)

Social norms for women in the Dharmasastra and Arthasastra tradition were framed in accordance with the Varnashrama tradition. Evaluate critically. [15 Marks]

Candidates must not write on this margin

Varnashrama tradition emphasised on strict adherence to Varna division of society as well as personal attributes of dvija males. These ideas greatly influenced women's position.

Social norms in Dharmasastra for women

It served as a guide for ideal societal behaviour in which controlling women served as main motive.

### ① Status of Women

↳ They were seen much inferior to males.

↳ Girls became burden for patriarch.

↳ Their participation in public life was minimal.

↳ Primary goal for women : sewing husbands

## ② Prohibitions due to Varna System

While male from higher varna and females from lower varna could marry (anuloma); the opposite (pratiloma) was seen as highly unacceptable.

## ③ Property rights

↳ Females had access to streedhan only, apart from gifts in marriage.  
 ↳ There was no provision for inheritance of father's property.

## ④ Duties of wife

↳ Expected to be docile, loyal, dedicated towards husband.

## ⑤ Marriage age

Various literary references show attainment of puberty as ideal age for marriage.

Social norms for women in Arthashastra

Though Arthashastra is primarily a

Treatise on statecraft, few references to women can be found which complied with Vamasharam tradition.

↳ Women did not have right to property.

↳ Their duty towards their husband was seen as of utmost importance.

↳ Women challenging social norms were seen as unrespectable.

However there were some new ideas on women in Arthashastra.

Women slave, if gave birth to son for their masters were to be freed and son's would be given share in property.

Kautilya mentioned women as good choice for spies for royal court.

Though ground realities seen from Buddhist and Jain sources show that women often challenged these norms.

Q.4 (b)

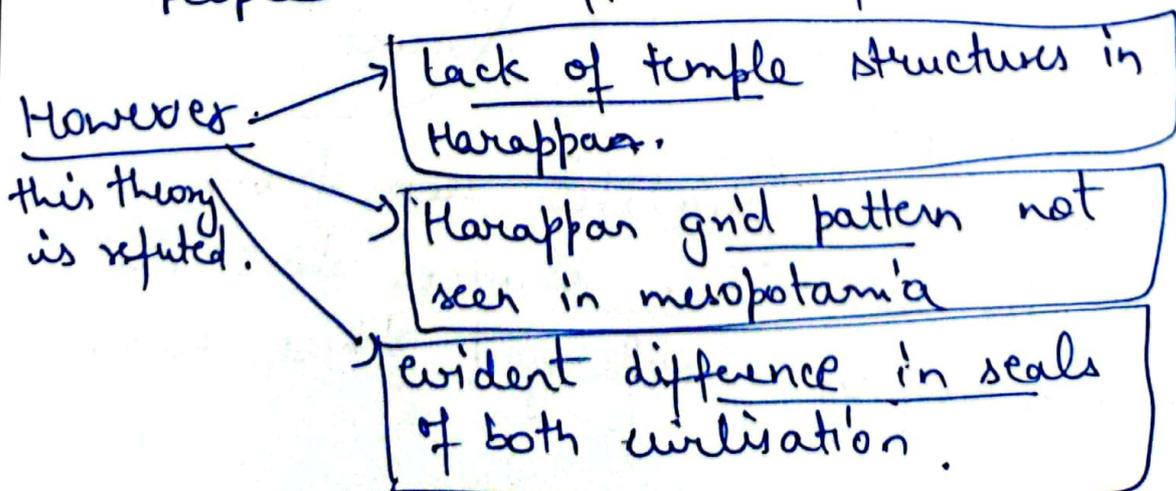
The urban character of the Harappan Civilization was a result of neither of any outside influence nor a sudden act but a gradual evolution of regional socio-economic factors.  
Comment. [15 Marks]

There has been intense debate on the nature of urbanisation of Harappan Civilisation. Though the civilisation depicted all the features of Gordon Childe's requirements for urbanisation, historians question the origin of these features.

Harappan Civilisation - result of outside influence

British historians such as M. Wheeler and others argue that Mesopotamian influence led ~~to~~ to Harappan civilisation.

↳ There may not be diffusion of people but diffusion of ideas.



## Harappan Civilisation as a result of Sudden act

It points towards Aryan invasion which led to establishment of civilisation.

↳ However, there is no evidence to match chronology of both events

Harappan civilisation  
(2600 - 1900 BCE)

Aryan theory  
(1500 onwards BCE)

↳ Harappans were already residing in North Western subcontinent.

↳ Aryans were identified with Painted Grey Ware Culture which came much after Harappans.

↳ Harappan civilisation was in bronze-age, while Aryans are associated with iron-age.

## Harappan Civilisation as gradual evolution

① Existing agrarian societies :- Region of Harappan civilisation was the same

where 1st evidences of agriculture emerged.

(Ex) Mehrgarh.

(2) Early Harappan cultures  
 Sites such as Kot Diji, Amri, Mundigak,  
Damb Saadat; etc display pre-harappan  
characteristics in terms of pottery, trade  
 links, agrarian development.

(3) Archaeological studies  
 studied the growth of  
Sothi Pottery and found similarities  
 with later Harappan pottery.

(4) Geographical factors  
 Gradual extension of agriculture around  
fertile regions around Indus led to  
growth of communities who began  
 specialisation in crafts.

Harappan civilisation emerged and  
 prospered due to host of factors. However,  
mere categorisation as outside influenced  
 or sudden act do no justice to its  
 grandeur.

2.4 (c) How did early Indian historical tradition, as reflected in Itihasa-Purana, emerge? What are the distinctive features of this genre? [20 Marks]

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Indian historical traditions were often ridiculed by western historians such as Hunter, H. Wilson, etc. However, recent studies by Romila Thapar, Pathak have revealed the concept of 'Embedded histories'.

Indian historical traditions in Itihasa-Purana

Romila Thapar in her work on Early Historical traditions noticed that Indian sense of history differed from current ideas on history writing.

↳ Ancient Indian writers would merge history with mythology.

(Ex) → Epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana.

↳ The history would become 'embedded' in the narrative and need to be extracted and understood.

(Ex. →) Mahabharata's focus on clan wars indicate existence of large kingdoms, dispute on inheritance of throne, etc.

↳ Beginning with bardic traditions, where soldiers accompanying kings in war or charioteers would compose songs for glorification of kings.

↳ With time these stories came to be recorded in literary forms resulting in stutis, narratives, puranas, etc.

↳ As social complexities increased, new additions were made to these historical tradition.

(Ex) The didactic part in Mahabharata was added much later to address societal moral values.

## Distinctive features of the genre

### ① Bardic traditions.

These were oral traditions. However Thapar

notes that element of chronological sequence of kings could be noticed.

Candidates must not write on this margin

## ② Stuti's

Thapar highlights that the record of gift giving, indirectly recorded details of activities.

## ③ Gatha - Narasani's

According to Pathak, the act of eulogising kings in gathas recorded contemporary history.

## ④ Itihasa - Purana traditions

It mainly includes Epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata.

↳ It literally means 'thus it was' hence recording the happening of the time.

## ⑤ Mahabharata

This epic records the struggle for power between clans of Kaurava and Pandava.

↳ Descriptions about Kuru and Panchal empire.

↳ Mention of contemporary traditions of marriage. (Ex) Polyandry by Draupadi.

### ② Ramayana

Story of Lord Rama leaving his kingdom to wander in forests.

↳ Description of geography, polity and culture.

↳ Signifies emergence of large kingdoms.

↳ Use of plough (hal) by kings mentioned.

### ↳ Puranas

Records geneological history of various dynasties, along with secular information like geography, artistic development, etc.

Due to these sources being 'embedded' the task of reading them become difficult but this does not show lack of historical sense in ancient Indians. They knew both linear and cyclical times.